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No. 50, March 1991

FIRE GUARD

Emergency Services Newsletter

Number 50 March 1991



50th Issue

The Media and The Fire Service...Who are the Winners - and the Losers?

Anytime the words "media" and "fire service" appear in the same sentence, everyone seems to pay much more attention to the nature and content of the message. You don't have to have too much time on the job before you recognize that anytime the fire service deals with the media, whether it's the newspapers or radio and television, we face the possibility of looking like heroes or presenting an image much less favorable. Our society seems to revolve more and more around what happens on the evening news as we relax in front of the television.

No doubt, the TV has shaped the public image of the fire service over the last 30 or more years. Those of us in "mid-career" were probably first indoctrinated to the fire service by the program entitled "RESCUE 8." Our image of the fire fighter was shaped by the weekly situations faced by Fire Fighters Skip and Wes. The fire fighters we are bringing into the service now grew up watching John Gage and Roy DeSoto every Saturday night on "EMERGENCY." The images of both of these programs have left an indelible mark on not only what we do in our organizations, but also how we go about doing it. As insiders we also recognize that there is always some element of "literary license" taken with these programs. Rarely did any of the incidents ever be less than completely successful.

The amount of action in a 30 or 60 minute program could only be found in the busiest of fire companies.

A discussion of the impact of these programs would not be complete, however, by not talking about the effect they had on the general public. In recent years we have also seen the increasing popularity of "RESCUE 911" on CBS and the new series called "ON SCENE" which premiered this Fall on FOX Broadcasting. All of the incidents contained in these programs are exciting, very visual, and almost exclusively successful.

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STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MAR 26 1991

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

MSUES FIRE TRAINING SCHOOL
2100 16th Avenue South
Great Falls 59405-4997 761-7885

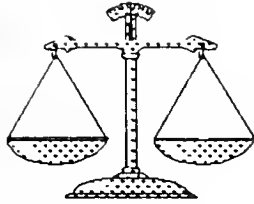
MONTANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL
303 North Roberts Room 371
Helena 59620 444-2050

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula 59801 542-4300

Montana State Library



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FIRE PREVENTION GRANT UPDATE

A.L. Varone

The Fire Marshal Bureau has been administering a federal grant to promote local fire prevention programs. Two programs are currently in progress: The Art Center, in conjunction with the Helena Fire Department in Helena - and - the Fort Belknap Agency in Harlem.

The Art Center/Helena Fire Department developed a fire prevention poster contest for local children. The poster theme was "Keep The Home Fires Burning Safely".

Reported earlier in the year, the contest winner is Melissa Zarndt, a fourth grade student at Ray Bjork Elementary School. In addition to receiving a plaque, presented on the local television station, Melissa was recently honored during an assembly at her school.

The principal presented a fire prevention lecture about the importance of both home and school fire safety. He also explained to the class that Melissa not only won the contest, but that her poster was sent to Washington, D.C., to the National Criminal Justice Association. The poster may be used, if the NCJA wishes, for national distribution.

Fritz Zettel, from the Helena Fire Department, and Carol Novotne, Director of the Art Center, then presented a framed copy of the poster to Melissa. Fritz has been distributing the posters to all the local businesses, schools and the state capitol complexes.

The local fire prevention program in Helena is considered very successful. Both the Art Center and the Helena Fire Department were dedicated to address the issue of 'prevention' and selected an audience of children to instill the importance of daily fire safety.

The Fort Belknap Agency is preparing a puppet show/coloring book program. They are developing three story lines for different age groups; the

coloring books will be bi-lingual and contain both English, Assiniboine or Gros Ventre.

The coloring books are completed and will be delivered to the printer the end of February. The puppets are also constructed. As soon as the books are available, dates will be set for the presentations. The Agency plans on delivering 15-18 plays and will be presented in conjunction with school programs.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A LOCAL FIRE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

We will have federal grant funds available for the 1991-92 year. The National Community Volunteer Fire Prevention Program (NCVFPP) is a community-based effort designed to increase the scope and effectiveness of local fire prevention and education programs. The primary purpose of the program is to achieve a significant and continuous reduction of deaths, injuries and property losses due to fires.

To achieve that goal, the NCVFPP is seeking to support fire prevention efforts of community-level volunteer programs by coordinating the resources of federal, state and local fire services with the resources of the private sector.

This program is designed to be developed and presented by local members of the community; for example, Kiwanis, Elks, Girl-Boy Scouts, hospitals, etc. If you are interested in a community-based fire prevention program in your area, and you think a local group would be interested in donating their time for such a project, contact them and let them know that there are some funds available. Then give me a call 444-2050 and we can discuss the intention of grant.

There will be two locations selected for the upcoming year. The sooner you contact me, the better because a decision must be made in the near future. I will be attending a NCVFPP meeting in April and would like to have the projects selected by that time.



MONTANA FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

A.L. Varone

Well, another year is over and I want to thank all of you for the hard work you have done with the incident reporting system. By the time this edition is published, the deadline will have passed, and we are overwhelmed with the participation for 1990. Without a doubt, you are all to be commended for your dedication to be an important segment to the success of Montana's reporting program.

The struggle for accuracy and completeness, both yours and ours, has not been without problems. We realize the difficulties that occur, especially with volunteer organizations. In an attempt to assist, we review each report - should there be a question on the information; perhaps inconsistent coding or logical incompatibility (as an example), we have been circling the item and returning it to you. We do that in an attempt to help - we would like to have the luxury of calling all of you when there is a question. It is impossible for us, however, to do it; we are grossly understaffed and simply do not have the budget to be able to call.

Our less than satisfactory solution has been the circling and returning system. I know, I know, many of you think you are being treated like school children: "circle the error in RED INK and return it to the b-a-d fire department".

Please believe me when I tell you that could not be further from the truth. We use red ink because it is the easiest to see. We would like to be able to make comments or explanations on each one but, once again, the lack of appropriate staff does not allow us that luxury.

I sympathize with you when you open an envelope and see all the red marks on your hard work. I know I would have a tendency to become angry; but I cannot stress enough my sincerity when I say that we are only trying to help. We want you to call us if you have a question.

We were only able to conduct two MFIRS coding classes in 1990. Hopefully, 1991 will enable us to offer more educational opportunities and accommodate you and your training needs the way you deserve.

Once again, thank you for your dedication and participation in the reporting program.

CODE QUESTIONS

- Q -- An outbuilding, at a residence, is coded as 926 (Outbuilding, excluding garage. Included are privies). What is the proper COMPLEX code - 41 (Dwelling complex [one and two family]), 80 (Warehouse, storage complex, or 98 (No complex).
- A -- The COMPLEX code is 41. The complex is the general overall use of the property, not the specific use.
-
- Q -- For a non-fire incident, where a firefighter is injured, does the entire NFIRS-1 Incident Report need to be filled out?
- A -- No, the entire form need not be completed; only lines A through I. If you are using NFIRS computer software, a warning flag will be created in the EDIT/UPDATE (20 Record Not Needed). The injury will be accepted as long as A-I is completed.
-
- Q -- What is the correct AREA OF ORIGIN code for a vehicle fire when the fire starts in the dash area?
- A -- Code 85 (Operating, control area of transportation equipment).
-
- Q -- Company A gets a call for which assistance will be needed and puts in calls for mutual aid from B and C. Upon arrival at the scene, Company A discovers it is a false alarm and cancels the mutual aid calls. Company B and C are canceled before arrival and fill out a report indicating a canceled mutual aid call. Does Company A fill out a report indicating a false alarm call, with no mutual aid received, since Company B and C did not arrive at the scene?
- A -- Company A fills out a report indicating that mutual aid was received. The companies that were canceled would use 69 (Good intent call not classified above) for TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND and 9 (Type of action taken not classified above) for TYPE OF ACTION TAKEN.
-

Q -- Volunteer Fire Department A gets called for a fire but cannot muster enough manpower. Volunteer Fire Department B then gets called and responds to the fire in Company A's district. Should Company B be considered as filling in and given mutual aid - or - as first responder in another district?

A -- The district is Volunteer Fire Department A's. Volunteer Fire Department B is giving mutual aid.

Q -- Company A responds to a structure fire. Companies B, C and D are called for mutual aid. Company B arrives at the scene and gives mutual aid. Company C and D are canceled before arriving at the scene. Should TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND be consistent with the first responder on all the reports submitted by Companies B, C and D?

A -- The TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND would be different. Company B's situation would be an 11 (structure fire); Company C and D would be 69 (Good Intent not classified above).

Q -- How are exposure fires counted on the SELECTED STATISTICS report?

A -- Exposure fires are counted as separate fires.

Q -- How do you report an apartment or condo fire in which multiple occupants are involved - OCCUPANT NAME?

A -- The occupant of the apartment in which the fire originated is the occupant listed on the report.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 52nd. session of the Montana Legislature convened on January 7th. of this year. At the time of this report the half way point is almost upon us. The following list of bills is not all inclusive. Those bills reported to the Bureau by the Fire Service Associations and those requested by the Department of Justice are included.

The Legislative number to call if you wish to contact the legislature is 444-4800.

HOUSE BILL #2 - Appropriations Joint Sub-Committee on Fire Training School Budget and location of school. Committee approved present budget, increased budget for vehicle, denied funds for moving and elimination of property budget for library. STATUS: Pending in Committee

HOUSE BILL #48 - Providing specifications for wrecker and tow truck warning signs and fire extinguisher. STATUS: Passed House and Senate, sent to enrolling 2/5.

HOUSE BILL #94 - Clarifying permission to reprint portions of Montana Codes. STATUS: Passed House, tabled in Senate Judiciary Committee 2/4.

HOUSE BILL #138 - Establish qualifications for Public Safety Communication Officers (dispatchers). STATUS: Passed House, Passed Senate third reading 2/11.

HOUSE BILL #143 - Sponsored by Tim Whalen. To amend procedures for establishing a Fire Service Area, and 7-33-2401 and 7-33-2404. Tabled in committee after more testimony in executive session.

HOUSE BILL #180 - Introduced by Representative Don Larson. To amend 19-2-101, MCA. To allow volunteer firefighters to receive deferred compensation. Hearing was held on January 22 9:00 AM. in the House State Administration Committee. Tabled in committee.

HOUSE BILL #181 - Introduced by Representative Don Larson. This bill would require a written notice to the buyer of a dwelling, that the dwelling has smoke detector, or other fire detector system installed. This is a new section. Hearing was held on January 18 in the House Business & Economic Development Committee. Bill passed the Committee with a unanimous vote. Passed second and third reading in House and sent to Senate. Sent to enrolling.

HOUSE BILL #182 - Introduced by Representative Don Larson. This bill amends 7-33-2105 MCA to add the words, emergency response equipment and personnel. STATUS: Passed third reading 2/11.

HOUSE BILL #201 - Introduced by Representative Ben Cohen. Amends 7-2-4503 and 7-2-4504 removing restrictions on annexing on transportation, or any industrial or manufacturing facility when wholly surrounded by a city. Hearing postponed until February 5, 3:00 PM, House Local Government Committee

HOUSE BILL #227 - Introduced by Representative Don Larson. Amends 7-33-2106 MCA clarifying proof of eligibility to vote for Rural Fire Trustees. Passed House, hearing in Senate Local Government Committee 2/19.

HOUSE BILL #228 - Introduced by Representative Don Larson. New section. An act allowing an emergency responder to recover cost for hazardous materials incident. Sent to House Judiciary Committee. Hearing January 25. Passed Committee as amended. Passed House, sent to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HOUSE BILL #230 - Introduced by Representative Don Larson. A new section allowing Fire District Trustees to establish a capital improvement fund. Sent to House Local Government Committee. Hearing February 5, 3:00 P.M.

HOUSE BILL #257 - Introduced by Representative Bob Gilbert. Death benefit for public safety officers killed in line of duty. Includes firefighters. \$25,000 lump sum payment. Passed second reading and referred to Appropriations

HOUSE BILL #296 - Introduced by Representative Steve Benedict. Allows counties to enter into 10 year purchase contract. Should apply to fire districts. Presently 5 years. Referred to House Local Government Committee, hearing February 7, 3:00 PM.

HOUSE BILL #328 - Introduced by Representative John Cobb. An act adopting the state single audit

act; generally revising and clarifying the law relating to audits of local government entities: requiring compliance with government auditing standards. Should not change the way fire districts have been audited in the past. Referred to House Local Government Committee. Hearing scheduled February 12, 3:00 PM.

HOUSE BILL #354 - Allow county commissioners to levy 1 mill for fire control activities (Amends 7-33-2209 from \$15,000 to 1 mill if higher). STATUS: Hearing in House Local Government Committee 2/12.

HOUSE BILL #396 - Requiring the creation of rural special improvement district by petition of at least 60% of property owners. Status: Referred to House Local Government Committee, hearing 2/14.

HOUSE BILL #450 - Providing for disapproval of lobbyist license if reports are inaccurate. STATUS: Hearing in House State Administration Committee 2/8.

HOUSE BILL #483 - Authority to establish Municipal Fire Service Area. STATUS: Hearing in House Local Government Committee 2/19.

HOUSE BILL #536 - Fire Service Areas to provide emergency medical and other emergency services. (County commissioners could mandate provision of service). STATUS: Hearing in House Local Government Committee 2/14.

HOUSE BILL #542 - Allow County commissioners to establish county-wide open burning permit program. STATUS: Hearing scheduled in Local Government Committee but canceled.

HOUSE BILL #599 - Revise calculation of Volunteer Firefighter Compensation Act pensions. STATUS: Hearing in House State Administration 2/11.

HOUSE BILL #655 - Fire Marshal to adopt rule conditions permitting installation and use of below-grade LPG appliances. STATUS: Hearing in House Business Committee 2/19. Fire Marshal portion amended out - now only affects rules of the State Building Codes Bureau

HOUSE BILL #809 - Raises the Fire Marshal Insurance premium tx to 1 1/2% and creates a special revenue fund to insure that the tax is used for the purpose it is levied for; hearing 3/12/91 House Taxation Committee

HOUSE BILL #896 - Generally revises statutes pertaining to the powers and duties of the State Fire Marshal and changing all statutory references to the

Department of Justice; hearing 2/22/91 House Judiciary.

SENATE BILL #10 - Introduced by Senator Esther Bengston. To amend 7-33-2105 MCA to allow Fire Districts to issue bonds under the guidelines of the county bonding laws, Title 7, chapter 7, part 22. Hearing was held on January 8, in Senate Local Government Committee. The original bill has been amended. Passed Committee as amended. Passed second and third reading in Senate and sent to House Local Government Committee 1/29.

SENATE BILL #23 - Emergency Dispatch (911) accounting responsibility. STATUS: Tabled and amended into SB160.

SENATE BILL #95 - Police, emergency response and safety education vehicles not commercial vehicles. STATUS: Passed Senate, referred to House Highways Committee 1/26.

SENATE BILL #102 - Introduced by Senator Dennis Nathe. To amend 39-71-118 MCA to allow volunteer firefighters to receive benefits under the Workmans Compensation Act. Hearing was held January 24, 1:00 PM, in the Senate Local Government Committee. Amended in Committee.

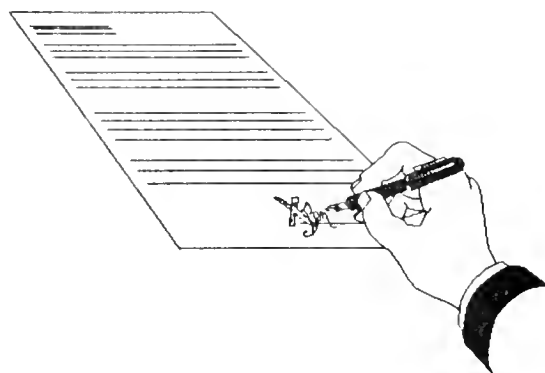
SENATE BILL #124 - Exempt \$12,000 of pensions from taxation. STATUS: Hearing in Senate Taxation Committee 1/31. Currently all pensions are exempt if paid by Montana.

SENATE BILL #157 - Section 6. Amend 7-33-2106 to stagger terms for fire district trustees. STATUS: Passed Senate, referred to House State Administration Commission.

SENATE BILL #160 - Revising the distribution of 911 funds to cities and counties. (Money to go to one designated 911 authority). STATUS: Passed senate, transmitted to House 2/9.

SENATE BILL #165 - Increase maximum assessment for fire protection in forest fire protection district. STATUS: Scheduled for third reading 2/11.

SENATE BILL #201 - County attorney to be legal advisor for fire service areas. STATUS: Passed Senate, transmitted to House 2/9.



NFPA FIRESAFETY EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS PROJECT

In the last issue of the Fire Guard we reported on an commentary that was issued by the NFPA in regard to the success of firesafety education. We indicated that each month we would publish another story of how effectively the program is really working. Following is another story:

November 18, 1988 -- Twylla Swetz and her mother were staying at a hotel in Melita, Manitoba the night a fire broke out, claiming the life of one male resident. The hotel had many deficiencies with respect to firesafety. By the time Twylla and her mother were alerted to the fire at 4:10 A.M., the front exit of the hotel was entirely blocked and smoke was beginning to flood the hallway.

As they exited their room, the Swetzes encountered a man who, because of a previous fire experience, was extremely distraught. Of the three, only Twylla knew of a second exit from the hotel.

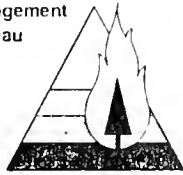
Maintaining her composure, she assured the adults she would get them out. Twylla took the stranger by the hand and felt her way down the hallway and through two unmarked doors to safety.

LIVES SAVED: 3

FIRE BREAKS

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

Fire Management
Bureau



Forestry
Division

WILDLAND NEWS & VIEWS

COUNTY FIRE WARDEN'S MEETING

The first meeting of the newly formed Montana Firewarden's Association will be held in Lewistown on March 23-24, 1991. For additional information on the Firewarden's association and the spring meeting, contact:

Montana County Firewardens
Association
c/o Tom O'Hara
325 Second Avenue North
Great Falls, Montana

TRAINING AND TEAMWORK

(As told to Gail Cloninger, Reporter for the Sun Valley Sun, by Sonny Stiger, Chief, Wolf Creek Volunteers)

"Al Milliron, Rocky Infanger, and I were with four Dept. of State Lands firefighters on a State fire near the top of Beartooth Mountain west of Holter Lake, when we spotted the fires in the Beartooth Game Management Area at about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 13th. I radioed the Sheriff

dispatcher to call out all Wolf Creek and Craig firemen and engines to the new fires. Mike Ness of the Dept. of State Lands, who was with us, simultaneously called out more help from the Helena Inter-agency Fire Desk.

It was dark, and walking in the rocks back to our trucks was difficult. We were walking as fast as we could as we watched the two fires in the Beartooth literally explode before our eyes. It was an awesome sight, and I radioed my firemen to warn them that these were dangerous fires and not to take any action that would put their lives in jeopardy.

We all met at the Game Range Manager's office, and I asked Mary Shamley, Cindy Turk, Margaret Radcliffe, Raymond Radcliffe, and Mardel Milliron to start setting up a Command Post. There were two engines from Wolf Creek, one from Craig, and two from the Dept. of State Lands, plus the Wolf Creek Command Van. There were about eight structures threatened. I deployed engines by the structures and then drove up on a ridge with Jerry Miloh, the Game Range Manager, to view the two fires and develop a plan of attack. One of the Wolf Creek engines proceeded up Elkhorn Creek to warn hunting camps. The Craig engine had already gone up Willow Creek and Elkhorn Creek and towed out, or drove out several vehicles.

It was evident that the two fires would burn together and

the Beartooth Game Range Headquarters was in immediate danger. The fires were several thousand acres in size by this time and exploding into a major conflagration. The engines were called back from Elkhorn and Willow Creeks for fear they would be trapped. I returned to Headquarters and asked that all but the engine crews pull out and set up a Command Post at the Log Gulch Campground, with the help of Don Garrett and Johnny and Debbie Montoya.

The engines remaining were manned by Gary Cloninger, Rocky Infanger, Al Milliron, Jack Shamley, "Teach" Elrod, Bob Radcliffe, Rod Boboth, Robbie Radcliffe, and Delbert Lemmons. In addition, two DSL engines commanded by Mike Ness and Kevin Legg remained. Bill Fliener of the Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office also arrived at about this time.

As the wall of flames came over the ridge, the flame lengths were estimated to be at least 50 to 100 feet high. The light was as bright as day, but eerie red in color. Burning embers were falling all around us. The main house had a cedar shake roof and two 500-gallon propane tanks nearby. Two other bunkhouses were covered by dry cottonwood leaves. I really had doubts that we would be able to save them. After consulting with Mike Ness and "Teach" Elrod, we felt our only chance was to backfire from behind the main house and continue down the road to Cottonwood Creek, a distance of

about one mile, and let the main fire pull our backfire into it. This would consume the fuel ahead of the fire and change the direction of the main fire away from the structures.

Gary Cloninger took one hoseline onto the roof of the main house while the other engines supported the backfiring operations. I began the backfire near the propane tanks while a DSL engine put foam on them, and then proceeded backfiring around the house and down the road. "Teach" Elrod started burning at the Manager's house and worked toward me. As we met, I could see that the backfire was going to succeed. Our fire was being pulled into the main fire and away from the buildings.

The main fire jumped the road to Elkhorn Creek on a two or three-mile front and continued toward Cottonwood Creek. We continued to burn out from the main Beartooth road, while the engines remained to protect the Game Range structures. They had their hands full keeping the structures from igniting due to the heat.

The next day our fire department were incorporated into the overall fire suppression organization that had been established during the night. They continued to assist in the suppression effort until the fire was declared controlled. As Chief of the Wolf Creek Fire

Department, I am very proud of these firemen. They showed great courage and skill under the worst possible fire conditions. The fact that all the Headquarters structures were saved is to their credit. They are the unsung heroes behind the headlines."

National Workshop Rescheduled

The national workshop, "The Power of Politics, The Media and the Public in dealing with Wildland/Urban Fire Protection Programs in the 1990's", scheduled to be held in Missoula in the Spring of 1991 has been rescheduled. Because of scheduling conflicts with some of the key individuals that were scheduled for this conference, the meeting has been rescheduled for April 19-22 1992. This meeting will bring together America's Wildland/Urban leaders with an outstanding program of national stature and significance. Montana DSL will update keep you informed of future agendas and registration information.

DSL Wildland Fire Training

Basic and Intermediate classes of the Rural Wildland Firefighting training program, delivered by the Field Operations Division of the Montana Department of State Lands, are available for several more months. Please check the combined training schedule or contact your local DSL Land Office or Unit for

times and dates. Training is the tool that takes us from where we are to where we need to be.

RESPIRATORS ON THE WILDLAND FIRE ?

Each fire season 20,000 to 30,000 firefighters are engaged in suppressing wildfires on federal, state, and private lands. Studies of firefighter exposure to smoke and carbon monoxide indicated only occasional hazardous exposure until the 1987-1988 fire seasons. During the 1988 Yellowstone fires, 12,000 respiratory problems were reported to medical personnel. To address this problem, numerous fire service organizations met in January 1989 to outline a study plan for determining the immediate and long-term effect of exposure to forest fire smoke. The Missoula Technology and Development Center of the U.S. Forest Service is currently coordinating the national effort and will serve as the focal point for on-going and future studies of the problem.

Funding request have been requested to allow the following programs:

- * a comprehensive study that integrates measures of fireline emissions, firefighter exposure, and health effects.
- * Upgraded agency surveillance and record keeping that will eventually allow assessment of

long-term effects of exposure to forest fire smoke.

- * Support for related/ongoing studies of the effects of forest fire smoke on firefighters.

- * Management/coordination of the NWCG project on the health hazards of smoke.

Currently there are several different types and models of respirators that are available for wildland firefighters. They vary from half and full-face respirators to air-purifying respirators. Data is currently being collected that determines current use and experience with respirators, respirator problems, smoking, and other factors associated with exposure to smoke or with successful use of respiratory protective devices.

Some initial results reveal that after wildland fire responses, firefighters reported that their typical post-response symptoms of eye irritation, respiratory irritation, tightness in the chest, and coughing had decreased significantly or were completely eliminated. It was also reported that the limitations resulting from the use of this equipment was overcome by adjusting their firefighting activities accordingly.

As more information becomes available, Montana Department of State Lands will keep you informed of the findings and

directions that respirators may be taking in the wildland fire service. If research indicates the need for respiratory protection, and if exposure can't be managed or avoided, the use of respirators may be needed in certain circumstances.

Montana's Winter Moisture

Unless Montana begins to receive its normal share of moisture through Spring snows and rains, we could be facing an extension of several years of extreme fire conditions. A review of several Montana locations from the beginning of September through the end of January finds the following situations:

- * Choteau -- 32% of normal
- * Augusta -- 54% of normal
- * Harlowton -- 34% of normal
- * Helena -- 32% of normal
- * Great Falls -- 52% of normal
- * Lincoln -- 109% of normal

The key to our future fire conditions may well depend upon this Spring's moisture.

A review of many western states indicates that extreme drought conditions currently exist in many locations. California and southern Oregon are currently facing fire conditions which are several months ahead of normal fire patterns.

Hindsight is good; foresight is better;
but insight is best.

DSL ENGINE 190

The Equipment Development Center of the Montana Department of State Lands has served in many roles over the years. In years past, the majority of wildland engine development was done to place 1 ton trucks with slip-in tanks and pumps into service. Over 300 of these units are currently in service throughout all parts of Montana today. Recently DSL equipment development has been involved in the development of a Type 3 engine to be placed in service at the Missoula Unit of the Southwestern Land Office for direct protection service. A similar engine, which DSL also refurbished, has been in service in Kalispell for one year. Joe Gasvoda manages the Development and Support Section of DSL, while Mechanic Foreman Joe Wulfekuhle and his staff, Ed Schroeder, Duane Erickson, Danny Campbell, Terry Rathbun, and Virgil Carey perform the rebuild and refurbish work.



Pictured above is a US Air Force Line Truck similar to DSL 190 before development began.



- * 1969 GMC CHASSIS
- * ALL WHEEL DRIVE
- * 454 ENGINE
- * 12 TON WINCH
- * 4 SPEED TRANSMISSION
- * SEATING FOR 6 FIREFIGHTERS
- * SHOULDER HARNESS SEAT BELTS
- * LIGHTBAR & SIREN
- * FRONT & REAR HAZARD LIGHTS



- * 750 GALLON TANK
- * 450 GPM HALE PTO PUMP
- * 17 GAL. FOAM SYSTEM
- * 6" BUTTERFLY QUICK DUMP
- * FULL BODY COMPARTMENTATION
- * FULLY ENCLOSED CREW CAB
- * MONITOR
- * 2-1.5" CROSSLAY PRECONNECTS

FIRE TRAINING SCHOOL SECTION



No Move!

The Legislative Committee which heard the Fire School budget, refused to move the School to DSL. Testimony was presented on the issue by Duane Larson, Chiefs Association, Dean Glover, Plentywood, and Clark Johnson, Wolf Point at a hearing on January 30. The Committee took executive action February 8. In addition to leaving the School under MSU, the Committee added funds for a replacement vehicle and administrative fees which are charged for the services MSU provides. The Committee rejected the local assistance program, rental of space at a different location, and the elimination of fees for certification and library access.

The Committee's actions are subject to approval or modification by the full legislative body.

Advisory Council Meets

The Fire Services Training Advisory Council met at MSU Monday, January 21 and adopted a proposal for a revised Fire Fighter 1, 2, and 3 Standard. The proposal includes a relocation of several existing standards between the three levels, but only a single standard was added. Several basic skills are relocated from Fire Fighter 2 to 1 in the proposal. They include the emergency SCBA procedures, use of radios, and utility control.

The proposal will be circulated for comment during the remainder of 1991 and hearings will be held at each major fire convention on its merits. Comments are also solicited in written form for Council consideration. The proposed Fire Fighter 1 standard will be printed in the

next Fire Guard, and the other 2 levels will be published in subsequent issues. Copies of the proposals can be obtained from the School.

The Council also discussed the marketing of the training in context program, legislative issues, and planned to devote a share of their next meeting (April 21 and 22 in Great Falls) to planning.

Classic Bruno

Sixty-two Montana fire fighters (and one from California) attended the Leadership Seminar with Alan Brunacini at MSU in January. Topics discussed ranged from hiring practices to supporting each other (personally and organizationally) and bringing the state's fire service together. Among the thought provoking notable and quotable phrases Bruno employed this visit was "The past no longer predicts the future and on the lighter side, I am no psychiatrist and I can prove it."

Driver/Operator Instructor Training

The Fire Training School, in cooperation with Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Company (VFIC), will be offering instructor training for individuals interested in becoming trainers for drivers of emergency vehicles. The session will be offered over the weekend of April 27 and 28 1991 at FTS. Those completing the Course will be given a comprehensive instructor manual and be accredited by FTS. There is no charge for this Course, however attendance will be limited to one trainer per department, and will fill on a first come first serve basis.

(Media continued from Page 1)

The general public probably recognizes that "RESCUE 8" and "EMERGENCY," while generally based on real situations, is for the most part theatrical drama. I'm sure the general public also recognizes that "RESCUE" and "ON SCENE" are fully based on real incidents which involved real people.

So what's the problem? All of these programs have made the fire service look great. The public loves us. We're finally getting the widespread recognition that we most assuredly deserve. And all of this is true. But, therein lies the potential problem. With the recognition and awareness of the fire service comes a level of expectation which is probably higher than some organizations can provide.

The general public expects that if they have a problem, we can fix it. They expect that if they call 911 someone will not only answer, but they will respond in less than five minutes. Once on the scene, the fire, or medical emergency, or rescue situation will be promptly "fixed" and just like a fairy tale, everyone lives happily ever after.

Because of the nature of our business and the lack of control of all the various factors, rarely does this type of scenario occur. Most of the time we manage to make the best of a less than optimum situation. When things go wrong altogether, as they occasionally do, will we face an element of increasing dissatisfaction? Will the fire service face an increasing number of "armchair fire chiefs" who will "Monday morning quarterback" every decision that was made during that less than optimum outcome?

In the past we have been about to sidestep criticism by saying that someone just doesn't understand the complex nature of how we do our business. After the general public has watched it on TV, this excuse will generate even more criticism.

Could it be that in the years to come we will have to face the toughest challenge in history of the fire service accountability to the citizens? Stay tuned to your TV for further bulletins and updated information.

Written by William Peterson, Chairman of NFPA Fire Service Section, Nov/Dec 1990, Reprinted with permission.

Montana Fire Fighters Attend Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) at National Fire Academy

Four Montana fire fighters recently attended VIP classes at the National Fire Academy. Those individuals are: Ray Erickson (Florence Rural Fire Department), Jay Gasvoda (Corvallis Rural Fire Department), Tony Novak (West Helena Valley Fire Department), and Garvey Wood (Loma Fire Department).



Fire fighters Fredrick Jones, John Wytanis and Ron Naber are donning full-protective clothing and SCBA during a recent Fire Fighter 1 Intro class at West Yellowstone. Coaching them is T. Brett Haggerty.

Upcoming Courses of Interest

ELKHART NOZZLE REPAIR March 16 Missoula Aerial Depot

The basics of nozzles and their repair will be covered in this one day Course which runs from 9AM until 5PM. Participants will also trouble shoot nozzle problems. Participants will be able to repair, adjust and clean their department's nozzles with 100% effectiveness. Fire personnel may bring their old or leaky Elkhart nozzles and repair them. Elkhart Brass Company will supply appliances if you cannot bring any.

FIRE SERVICE MANAGEMENT April 13 & 14 Fire Training School
Starting at 8:30 AM

This Course will provide fire and rescue managers with a practical training program that applies management concepts and principles to the organization administration. It is designed for those individuals with responsibilities for managing various facets in organizations or departments.

DRIVER OPERATOR April 27 & 28 Fire Training School
(Trainer the Trainer Course) Starting at 8:30 AM

Classroom instruction and hands-on emergency vehicle driving exercises. This Course will be taught by the Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Company Instructors. Participants will receive an instructor's manual which will help them deliver driving programs at local fire departments.

ARSON INVESTIGATION COURSES May 4 & 5 Fire Training School
(\$20 per person per day OR \$30 for both days) Starting at 8:30 AM

Wildland Fires - May 4 Vehicle Fires - May 5

The Wildland Fire Investigation Course addresses fire laws in Montana, common burn indicators, investigative techniques and case reports.

Origin and Cause of Vehicle Fires Course will help participants in determining if vehicle fires were incendiary or accidental. The Course will look at common and uncommon indicators pointing to fuel, electrical and emissions control caused fires. This Course is being taught by Lee Cole, author and investigator who has 35 years investigative experience.

Around the State

Chief Kraig Hansen; Harlem took an innovative approach to fire safety education this year. He assembled teachers from the local school and had former teachers and administrators tell them the story of the day the Harlem School burned (1968). An entire classroom of Kindergartners was nearly lost because they were unable to hear the alarm. Chief Hansen was at school that day also...in the 4th grade.

Chief Jesse Wilson, and Rural Chief Dennis Shupek; Columbus are putting together a training facility on city land. They have obtained two houses and a mobile home and are in the process of relocating them. They plan to construct a roof prop and utilize the structures repeatedly.

Chief Bill Kemp; Libby, reports that their members are video taping buildings in Libby for preplanning purposes and review by newer members.

Chief Jerry Benbrooks; Havre, is drafting specifications for a replacement engine, two new ambulances and enough 5" hose to replace all 3" supply line. These purchases will be financed by bonds, the sale of which was approved by voters in November. A new air compressor, extrication equipment, defibrillator, and refurbishing a '73 pumper were also included. Jerry says Havre is overdue for replacement apparatus, and we wouldn't argue with him. The City still has in service a '48 and '52 LaFrance, which will be for sale, as will the other items being replaced.

Chief Clark Johnson; Wolf Point, has accepted a bid and awarded a contract on a new Pierce engine. The apparatus will feature a four door cab, 1250 GPM pump and is expected in October.

Communication among members in Belgrade is being enhanced by publication and circulation of a newsletter "Smoke Signals." They are already on issue #11.

Chief Roy Cornell, Dillon has found an SCBA cylinder leaking at the imprint of the last hydrostatic test date. The case involves an aluminum wrapped cylinder. Anyone with a similar problem please contact FTS.

Billings fire fighters, having seen a levy vote go down to defeat by a 48 to 52% margin, are worried about layoffs.

Chief Don Hurni, Helena is routinely testing all fire fighters using the same entry agility/strength test he uses for fire fighter candidates. He says the more senior members are doing great on the test.

Dick Kirby, Billings was recently promoted to Battalion Chief. Congratulations Dick!

George Sisko, Great Falls, Battalion Chief, is back at work after heart surgery involving six bypasses. He looks and feels great.



Chief Gar Wood; Loma, has placed in service a new, used American La France 1000 GPM pumper. The vehicle was purchased from the City of Great Falls nearly fully equipped. Winifred has purchased Loma's former engine, which is a 56 Ford/Howe originally from Baker!

FTS FIREGROUND OPERATIONS CLASS PUT TO TEST IN PLENTYWOOD

During the recent fire in Plentywood the Fireground Operations training they received from FTS was put to the "acid test" according to Chief Dean Glover.

It was approximately 26 degrees below zero, with a chill factor of 46 degrees below when we received the alarm and within a short time, we had wind blowing at 20 mph. We had a full turnout of 28 fire fighters, utilized four pumpers, and had out in excess of 6,000 feet of hose line. The alarm was received at 5:24 AM on December 19, and we were on the fire continuously for 28.5 hours. Later in the day we requested relief fire fighters from surrounding fire departments and approximately 24 fire fighters from Medicine Lake, Westby, Froid and Redstone responded.

Thanks to the training and implementation of the Incident Command System and Tactical training received through the Fire School, this whole operation went like clockwork. The command control was excellent. Also, the utilization of personnel and crews has really improved under this System. Considering the extreme cold, ice, etc., I feel that this system definitely contributed to not having a single injury, and not a single hose line freeze up.

The Fire School's training efforts also helped us to improve our Department Fire Protection Classification from a Class 7 in 1987 to a Class 4 in 1989.

TO BETTER SERVE YOU...

In an effort to bring quality, state of the art training to Montana we contract with some of the nation's best. For FTS courses for which there is a fee, we are trying the following and would appreciate your comments.

- 1) Reservations will be accepted verbally and in writing.
- 2) Reservations not accompanied by payment will be held for 5 working days or, when applicable, not longer than the 16th calendar day prior to the first day of the session.
- 3) Receipt of payment of fees, purchase order number or a request for invoice, will confirm the purchase of the appropriate number of participant positions at the session.
- 4) Full refund of fees will be available from 15 calendars days prior to the session until the beginning of the session only if the session is filled and the participant position is filled with another customer. Substitutions may be criteria for attendance is met by replacement. Based on consideration of individual circumstances and at the discretion of the Director, refunds other than those herein described may be offered.
- 5) A waiting list will be established for customers wishing to attend a session that has filled to capacity. Confirmation of waiting list positions will be the same as participant positions described above. Refunds of fees for customers with confirmed waiting list positions will be made if no participant position becomes available for that customer. Refunds of fees for customers on the waiting list who accept participant position will be available as described above.



West Yellowstone Crew Fully Dressed-Out

FIRE GUARD NEWSLETTER EVALUATION SURVEY

Please fill out this survey and return to the Fire Training School; 2100 16th Avenue South; Great Falls, MT 59405-4997. This survey will help the partners of the Fire Guard to improve the quality and content of this Emergency Services Newsletter.

Personal subscriptions to the Newsletter are available by sending an \$8 check for 6 annual issues to the Fire Training school.

1. How do you rate the Fire Guard Newsletter?
Excellent Very Good Good OK Poor
2. How many times should it be published?
Annually Quarterly BiMonthly Monthly
3. What type of articles would you like to see published?
4. Do you have any specific complements or criticism for the Newsletter?
5. What kind of articles would you like to see from the Fire Training School?
6. What kind of articles would you like to see for the Fire Marshal Bureau?
7. What kind of articles would you like to see from the Department of State Lands?

ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

- DO:** Establish productivity and performance goals for yourself.
- DO:** Organize your time each day so that you can best meet your goals.
- DO:** Protect your uninterrupted work time by learning to say no to immediate requests for help from others.
- DO:** Delegate tasks to others when you become overwhelmed.

DON'T: Confuse newness with priority. Identify functions you can let slide for awhile.

DON'T: Accept two assignments whose time constraints will adversely impact on one another.

DON'T: Schedule your time so rigidly that an unexpected event causes a great setback.

DON'T: Count on others helping you to meet your goals unless you have discussed it with them.

DON'T: Allow bad habits to masquerade as the "style in which you work."

ISO GRADING & PUMPER TESTING

Plentywood Fire Dept.

April 14

Members of northeastern fire departments rural and city administrators are invited to attend a one day workshop.

ISO Grading/Rating Schedule 8:30 AM - Noon. Valuable information for lowering your fire insurance rates. Chief Dean Glover will discuss ideas that will work for your organization.

The afternoon session running from 12:30 - 4:30 PM deals with Annual Fire Department Pumper Testing. Chief Glover will give a concise procedure for finding out if your pumper can pass the test. Call 765-1821 for more information.

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER TRAILER PROGRAM

The Fire Training School has just received word that it is receiving another grant to fund the Residential Sprinkler Trailer (RST) for an additional year. This new grant will include funds to replace the sheeting on the exterior of the trailer and to replace charred interior paneling.

There will be an Instructor Hand Off Course held in Great Falls this Spring. Persons interested in becoming an instructor for the RST should contact FTS. Interested departments or cities who would like to host the RST unit should also make their requests as soon as possible. If you would like further information on this project, please contact the Fire Training School.

Help Wanted

Fire Chief, Lewistown Montana
Closing date April 1, contact Sue Glenn, 538-2302 City Clerk for more info.

Training Specialist GS-1712-13 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Closing date March 22, 1991. Interested parties can contact FTS and you will be sent the complete info package or you can contact the Field Personnel Operations Division at FEMA in Emmitsburg. Phone (301) 447-1390

Fire Fighters for the City and County of Denver. Applications taken until May 1. Send to Civil Service Commission; 888 East Liff; Denver, Colorado

Fire Fighter; Boulder, Colorado \$8.94
56 hour week (303) 441-3070
By March 13.

Fire Fighters/Paramedics; Pierce County, Washington. \$3046 to \$3544 Month
Testing in April, (206) 851-3111

Fire Marshal; Gering, Nebraska
\$25,000 annual salary, testing March 16.
Gering City; Box 621; Gering, Nebraska

May

4	Wildland Fires Cause & Origin (Fee)	FTS-Great Falls
5	Auto Vehicle Fires (Fee)	FTS-Great Falls
4 - 5	EMT Basic Exam	Miles City
7 - 10	DES Radiological Monitor Instructor Class	Miles City
10 - 11	EMS Advanced Trauma Life Support (Bucks T4)	Big Sky
18 - 19	EMT Basic Exam	Missoula

June

5 - 8	Volunteer Fire Fighter's Convention	Glasgow
13 - 14	EMS Defibrillation, Intermediate, Paramedic	Great Falls
15 - 16	EMT Basic Exam	Great Falls
17 - 18	NFPA Sprinkler Systems (2 Day)	Minneapolis, MN
17 - 19	NFPA Sprinkler Systems (3 Day)	Minneapolis, MN
17 - 20	NFPA National Electrical Code	Minneapolis, MN
17 - 20	DES Basic Radioactive Materials and Haz Mats Transportation	Idaho Falls, ID
18	DES Emergency Response Radioactive and Transportation	Idaho Falls, ID
18 - 19	NFPA Life Safety Code (2 Day)	Minneapolis, MN
18 - 21	NFPA Life Safety Code (4 Day)	Minneapolis, MN
20 - 21	NFPA Fire Alarm Systems	Minneapolis, MN
21 - 26	LEA Instructor Development	Bozeman

July

17 - 19	Montana Firemen's Association Convention	Miles City
23 - 25	DES Radiological Monitor Instructor Class	Bismarck, ND

August

7 - 10	Residential Sprinkler Trailer Demo, Park County Fair	Livingston
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September

11 - 12	DES Creative Financing	Billings
11 - 12	DES Developing Volunteer Resources	Billings
14 - 15	FF Safety and Survival and Company Officer's Responsibility	Helena Valley
21 - 22	Fire Safety Education Workshop with the Phoenix Clowns	FTS-Great Falls
27 - 28	Fire Chief's Conference (Recruiting, Retaining & Motivaton)	Great Falls

November

17 - 22	LEA Arson Investigation Course	Bozeman
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* (FTS - Fire Training School, 2100 16th Ave. South); (EMS - Emergency Medical Services, 444-6963); (DES - Disaster & Emergency Services, 444-6963); (DSL - Dept of State Lands, 542-4300) & (LEA - Law Enforcement Academy, 994-3918)

REGISTRATION FORM

Course: _____ Date: _____

Name _____ #SSN _____

Address _____ City _____

Department _____ Daytime Phone _____

Return to: Fire Training School, 2100 16th Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana 59405-4997 Phone: 761-7885

* You can access the State's Computer Bulletin Board (800) 962-1729 for new weekly additions to this Schedule.

FIRE GUARD NEWSLETTER
MSUES Fire Training School
2100 16th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405-4997



BULK RATE